

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Gallup City Council, City of Gallup, New Mexico, held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 110 West Aztec Avenue, at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Jackie McKinney.

Upon roll call, the following were present:

Mayor:	Jackie McKinney
Councilors:	Linda Garcia Yogash Kumar
Absent:	Allan Landavazo, Councilor Cecil Garcia, Councilor
Also present:	Maryann Ustick, City Manager George Kozeliski, City Attorney

Mayor McKinney said Councilors Landavazo and Cecil Garcia were out-of-town and were excused from the meeting.

Presented to the Mayor and Councilors were the following Discussion/Action Topics:

1. Resolution No. R2015-2; Directing the Allocation and Distribution of a Portion of the Unallocated Fiscal Year 2015 Projected Liquor Excise Tax Revenue for the Emergency Procurement of Shelter and Alcohol Abuse Education Services – George Kozeliski, City Attorney

Mr. Kozeliski said the proposed Joint Resolution with McKinley County would provide up to \$100,000 of unallocated liquor excise tax revenues to be used for providing shelter to homeless individuals who do not qualify for admittance to the Gallup Detox facility. The McKinley County Board of Commissioners conducted a special meeting last Friday and approved the Joint Resolution. Mr. Kozeliski said if the Mayor and Councilors approve the Joint Resolution, City and County staff members have already agreed to proceed with contracting with as many providers as needed due the emergency situation that exists with the freezing and inclement weather. Mr. Kozeliski answered questions regarding the terms and conditions of the proposed contracts with the providers.

Dr. Kevin Foley of the Na’Nizhoozhi Center, Inc. (NCI), said NCI has the resources available to supply the requested services of providing shelter.

An unidentified individual referenced the comments made during the special meeting of the County Commission about the gap in services needed since shelter is not the only need people have out in the streets. The individual asked if the proposed contracts would have any flexibility to allow for the search of people exposed to the freezing weather during the next six weeks. Mayor McKinney said there was discussion at the

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County Commission meeting about individuals that may need shelter but do not want shelter. There was also discussion at the meeting about the possible use of emergency response personnel, drones and infrared equipment to search for people who are hiding and to offer them assistance.

Carl Smith of the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, said CARE 66 has five to six beds available at the Lexington Hotel for sober individuals in need of shelter. He said he proposed the use of drones at the County Commission meeting to search for people exposed to the freezing weather. The cost of the drones range from \$3,000 to \$11,000 and he offered to provide a video presentation on how the drones work in the future.

Sanjay Choudhrie, Director of CARE 66, said his organization provides a mix of emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent housing to people with low income. During the past few weeks, CARE 66 has kept a room available for people who are in dire of shelter as long as the people seeking shelter blow a triple zero on a breathalyzer. Mr. Choudhrie answered questions posed by Mayor and Councilors regarding the services provided by his organization and the space availability at the Lexington Hotel. Mr. Choudhrie said his organization is willing to supply the requested services of providing shelter.

Mervyn Tilden representing Gallup Share and Care, said his group has been providing meals, jackets and blankets to people in need that are funded by donations. He said his organization is planning to submit a proposal to the City and County for \$5,000 in liquor excise tax funds for the purpose of feeding people. Mayor McKinney commended the work of Mr. Tilden's group and asked if Gallup Share and Care has anything to offer regarding the provision of shelter services. Mr. Tilden said he will work with his group concerning the City's request for services.

Discussion followed concerning the provision of services by NCI at their present facilities; the hours in which services are to be provided under the contracts; the City's inability to force people into shelters against their will due to civil rights issues; and the services provided by Casa San Martin.

Following discussion, Councilor Kumar made the motion to approve Resolution No. R2015-2. Seconded by Councilor Linda Garcia. Roll call: Councilors Kumar, Linda Garcia and Mayor McKinney all voted aye.

2. Resolution No. R2015-3; Declaring an Emergency and Authorizing the Emergency Procurement for the Replacement of a Collapsed Sewer Line on Chee Dodge Boulevard – Vince Tovar, Director, Gallup Water and Sanitation Department

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Mr. Tovar said the data received at the Waste Water Treatment Plant this past December indicated that there was a high amount of non-volatile material coming into the Plant. Staff suspected the creation of voids in the sewer system and began searching for the voids along the old sewer line along Route 66. On Wednesday, January 14, 2015, City crews discovered a sinkhole on Chee Dodge Boulevard and Low Mountain Street when a City truck broke through the pavement in the street. As a result, it was discovered that the sewer main collapsed underground. Mr. Tovar displayed photographs of the area where the sewer line collapsed. He asked the Mayor and Councilors to declare the collapsed sewer line as an emergency and to allow City staff to procure the services of a contractor to replace the sewer line. Mr. Kozeliski said the proposal is to replace two city blocks of sewer line. Mr. Tovar said when Tobe Turpen Elementary School was built the School District installed a sewer line in the area that is considerably deeper than the collapsed sewer line. Mr. Tovar proposed the installation of a new sewer line that is deeper into the ground to increase the velocity of the line and to address the odor issues in the area.

Discussion followed concerning the age, type and size of sewer line that collapsed; the description of the sewer line to be installed as the replacement line in the system; the sewer line breaks which have occurred in the area in the past; the process of how sinkholes are created by sewer line cracks; the collapsed sewer line being a contributing factor to the odor problems in the area; and the status of the chemical injections to be conducted under the City's odor control program. Mr. Tovar said the sewer line replacement and the chemical injections are expected to have a positive impact in addressing the odors in the area.

Following discussion, Councilor Linda Garcia made the motion to approve Resolution No. R2015-3. Seconded by Councilor Kumar. Roll call: Councilors Linda Garcia, Kumar, and Mayor McKinney all voted aye.

There being no further business, Councilor Linda Garcia made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Kumar. Roll call: Councilors Linda Garcia, Kumar, and Mayor McKinney all voted aye.


Jackie McKinney, Mayor

ATTEST:


Alfred Abelta II, City Clerk

Approved 2/10/2015